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ABSTRACT

Papers on national libraries which were presented at the 1985 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) "The Lenin State Library in Transition" (N. S. Kartashov, The Lenin State Library, USSR); (2) "Preserving for Access" (Guy Sylvestre, Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, Canada); (3) "The Role of the Library of Congress in Transition" (William J. Welsh, Library of Congress, United States); and (4) "National and University Libraries: Relations on the National and International Level" (Bendik Rugaas, Royal University Library, Norway). (THC)

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# THE LENIN STATE LIBRARY IN TRANSITION

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## I. Some General Points

I.I. The State Library of the USSR named after V.I.Lenin /the SLL/ was founded in I862 as a public library attached to Rumyantsev Museum in Moscow. In I925, after the establishment of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, it became a national library.

The development of the SLL as a national library might be conditionally divided into the following three stages: the first stage - from I925 to I959; the second - from I959 to I984. Now the SLL is in its new, third stage. This division into periods is based on the evolution of the SLL's role in the national library system. Yet, it has a somewhat conditional character, since the features determining the SLL's activities at each stage were born in the subsoil of the previous period and then, getting gradually shaped, prepared transition to a next stage.

I.2. Changes in the SLL's activities at all these stages are due to the evolution of objective cultural, educative and information requirements of Soviet society. As they grow and their content becomes ever more sophisticated, the SLL is faced with ever new tasks, and the scope of its responsibility is gradually expanding.

I.3. With due account of these higher demands, the SLL is steadily granted some additional resources: finances, personnel, space, material-and-technical equipment.

As a result, the general development of the SLL's material-and-technical base, within the last 67 years, is characterised by the following statistics:

| | 1918 | 1985 |
|---|---|---|
| Collections, in the metres of shelves | 15,500 | 82,500 |
| Sitting capacity | 300 | 2,300 |

## 2. The First Stage of Development

2.1. In 1925 the Soviet government passed a decision to transform Rumyantsev Public Library into the Public Library of the USSR named after V.I.Lenin, i.e. into a national library, with a right to get two sets of free copies of all Soviet publications.

2.2. According to this decision, at the first stage the leading line in the SLL's development was its establishment and consolidation both as a national book depository and as the country's main public library. So, it was faced with the following two major tasks: to multiply its depository and to ensure this depository's maximum utilisation.

2.3. Those were the specificities in the acquisition of home-documents collections: first, a rapid quantitative growth -- due to the high tempoes of the development of the publishing in the Soviet state; second, a language diversity which reflected successes in the development of the multinational Soviet culture: now, under the Soviet government, many nationalities had their own written languages and began to publish books and periodicals in them; third, a differentiated approach to acquisition based on information importance of particular documents. On the one hand, since the 1940ties the SLL

was gradually giving up the collecting of playbills, braille editions, advertisements, labels, etc. At the same time, in addition to the development of the basic-depository collections, on the basis of the two obligatory copies /and since 1945 of the three obligatory copies for the Russian-language editions/, we began to create subsidiary libraries of the reading-halls; the latter consisted of the newest editions in high demand which were bought in addition to the obligatory copies -- for the money especially allocated by the state for the purpose.

2.4. The foreign-editions book stock was being acquired by means of purchase and inter-library exchange. In compliance with the SLL's universal profile, the primary attention was paid to reference-and-information editions /encyclopaedias, cataligues of the world's largest libraries, bibliographic registers/, to works of a review- or summary-character, works by classics of science and literature, and to the most important periodicals in all the branches of knowledge.

2.5. The SLL was faced with a task of organising and ensuring a permanent storage of its growing collections, and, alongside, with another, equally important task -- of providing facilities for their optimal and active use. While solving this latter task, the principle of open-to-public collections was worked out. It included not only the hours of work of the reading-halls, a simple procedure by which a card of admission could be acquired and a large-scale usage of inter-library exchange but also various forms to ensure an intellectual access to the collections -- through a ramified system of reader catalogues, publication of different bibliographic handbooks,

giving a great number of bibliographic references on readers' and correspondents' requests, organisation of exhibitions and seminars on basic library-and-bibliography knowledge for the readership, etc.

This principle gives every Soviet citizen not only a physical possibility to get the required books from the SLL's reading-hall or through the inter-library exchange but provides for his or her multifacet intellectual acquaintance with the library's wealth of books. Hence, we consider the realisation of this principle as the SLL's major achievement at the first stage of its activities. This is what made the SLL different from all the other national libraries -- in their activities, in those years, the task of acquisition and storage of collections was clearly predominant over the task of rendering services.

2.6. In the years of the Great Patriotic War the SLL was working under special conditions. A considerable part of collections was evacuated to the hinterland. Many of the library personnel joined the Soviet Army and the People's Voluntary Corps. Yet, the servicing of readers was not stopped for a single day. Moreover, some new reading-halls were opened: in 1942 -- a reading-hall for children /in a year time it was transformed into a Department of Children's and Youth Literature/; in 1944 -- a reading-hall of current periodicals. There was a special car-library organised to satisfy the requirements of hospitals and military units. Generally, as to the servicing of the readership, the war-year figures were higher than the figures for the five pre-war years. Besides, in the war years some measures were taken to improve the quality of service: the books in high demand were

brought closer to the readers, more attention was paid to the time period within which readers' requests were satisfied, there were special catalogues introduced -- for the readers' better orientation in particular sections of the collections, types and sections of the materials. These measures prepared the ground for the restructuring of the system of services in a later, post-war period.

2.7. Just after the Graet Patriotic War the construction of the SLL new buildings, started in the 1930ties, was resumed. With the construction completed, the servicing of the readership was fully shifted onto new organisational rails. That was a project of the last pre-war years: first, the specialisation of service -- through the establishment of reading-halls for particular branches of knowledge and particular kinds of documents were special conditions for work were needed, the creation of branch reference-and-bibliography departments; second, the maximum openness of the collections to the readers -- to be achieved by the creation of subsidiary libraries at the reading-halls, with a free access to the shelves, with new reference, monographic and serial editions enjoying a high readers' demand; third, a precise system of control over the time within which to satisfy the readers' requests for documents and bibliographic references; forth, a systematic reduction of the number of the non-satisfied readers' requests for documents.

2.8. The development of the SLL's activities along the given lines is characterised by the following statistics:

| | I926 | I959 |
|---|---|---|
| Collections | 4,000,000 | 20,464,7I5 |
| The number of readers | 297,I6I | 2,093,I9I |
| Book delivery in the reading-halls | I,500,000 | II,09I,740 |
| Book delivery by inter--library exchange system | I,822 | 249,I60 |
| Bibliographic references | 5,893 | I32,542 |

2.9. From the very beginning a part of the SLL's work to open its book collections was in the form of bibliographic registers of a scientific and information character. Yet, the work in this sphere became regular and goal-oriented only in the post-war years -- when a systematised work began at a composite catalogue of the Russian books, when information lists of new acquisitions to the collections began to be released with a certain periodicity, when fundamental works on general bibliography and bibliography of bibliography started to appear.

2.I0. The rapid growth of libraries in the first post--war years demanded greater attention to the methodology in guiding their activities. Therefore, in I95I the SLL assumed a new function -- that of a center of methodology for the entire system of state libraries of the RSFSR. This was the beginning of a principally new function of the national library -- the methodology of guiding the activities of all the libraries in the country. This became a leading function at the second stage of the SLL's development.

## 3. The Second Stage of Development

3.I. A characteristic feature of the SLL,s activity at

the second stage is the consolidation of its ties with the country's other libraries and its gradual involvement into the management of the development of library services. This trend was conditioned by an intensive growth in the total number of Soviet libraries and their collections and the necessity of improving the quality of their work. The country had all the objective preconditions for creating an integral system of libraries. A necessary condition for solving this task was organisational centralisation and coordination of work of the existing libraries. An important role in securing this condition was played by the CC CPSU Enactments: "On the Present State of Affairs and the Measures to Improve the Library Service in the Country" /1959/ and "On Enhancing the Role of Libraries in the Communist Education of the Working People and in Scientific and Technological Progress" /1974/; they determined not only some basic demands put forward by the Soviet state before its libraries but also some concrete ways of their most effective satisfaction.

At this stage the ties of the Lenin Library with other libraries developed along two lines: first of all it was coordination of the Library's own goals aimed at building up its collection and catering to its readership; and, secondly, it was elaboration of the general methodological and scientific foundations of librarianship and supervision over the process of their introduction in Soviet libraries' work. The first line was the follow up of, on a new level of coordination, traditional library functions while the second one was a new development not only for the V.I. Lenin State Library, but for the organization of librarianship, as a social process, as a whole.

3.2. As regards the acquisitions for home editions' collection, the Lenin Library, as part of the whole Soviet Union's library net work, obtained new opportunities to control the process efficiently by both reducing the acquisitions of low-demand editions, and completely terminating acquisitions of certain types of documents. As the capabilities of other libraries developed, the Lenin Library continues to acquire in three copies only the documents most valuable information-wise, while the acquisition of mass and popular-science editions went down to two copies, secondary school text books and child fiction to one copy, etc. With the development of the National libraries in the Union Republics, certain documents published in these Republics are published in fewer copies. The establishment of a rational system of special collections of standard technical documents in the USSR (patents, standards, industria catalogues, etc.) enabled the Lenin Library to stop collecting these materials.

Taking all these decisions the Lenin Library proceeded from

the results of the readership's demand's survey and coordinated these decisions with other libraries concerned.

3.3. The acquisitions for the foreign editions' collection at this stage were coordinated much better than before with other research libraries of Moscow, in the first place with the All-Union State Library of Foreign Literature, the USSR State Public Scientific and Technological Library, the Central Scientific Agriculture Library, and the RSFSR State Public History Library.

The acquisition of foreign periodicals is conducted through coordination of annual subscription while books' acquisition is carried out through a clearcut acquisition policy for each library. In line with this policy the Lenin Library seeks to ensure a comprehensive, and if possible, exhaustive acquisition of foreign communist and workers' parties' publications, official publications of foreign governmental and legislative bodies, publications of international organizations (especially those the Soviet Union participates in), materials of international scientific conferences and congresses, publications on culture and arts, "Rossica" and "Sovetica", publications on librarianship, bibliography and bibliology, and reference and bibliographic materials. Besides, the Lenin Library's acquisitions involve the works reflecting in general individual sciences, major problems or the development of specific branches of economy both nationally and internationally, works by outstanding scientists, writers and public figures, and publications containing extensive factual materials.

3.4. The successful development of Moscow's libraries and their cooperation with us in providing services for the reader resulted in a clearer picture as to the users' contingent and the nature of

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their requirements the Library meets. The Library stopped catering to children and youth, for whom Children and Youth Central Libraries had been built, where the relevant literature from the Lenin Library was transferred. Students who used to make up nearly 50 per cent of the users are now provided with educational literature by libraries at higher educational establishments, while they can easily get necessary scientific publications, lacking in other libraries' collections, from the Lenin Library through the interlending system.

Catering to the Library's basic reader contingent comprising scientists and those directly involved in production is also conducted in cooperation with other research libraries in Moscow. For this purpose the Lenin Library provides for all its users extensive information on the forms and regulations of those libraries' services, thus enabling the readers to directly contact the libraries that can meet their requests for both specific publications and reference-bibliographic materials fully and promptly.

As a result of this rational division of services, the Lenin Library and its cooperating partners concentrate on prompt and adequate satisfaction of the requests for those documents and reference materials which in the best way correspond to the composition of their collections and to the professional standards of thei library staff. Besides, the Lenin Library itself has considerably expanded its services rendered to Government and Party institutions.

3.5. The interlending system plays an important part in making lit rary services more efficient. In 1969 the Soviet Union adopted "Th Statute on the Unified All-Union Interlending System of the USSR".

This system is based on territorial-stage transfer and retransfer of requests for documents through general and branch, regional and national centres. In this system the Lenin Library performs the function of the national coordinating centre for interlending. As such, the Lenin Library a) coordinates and guides All-Union (branch) and regional (general and branch) interlending centres; b) exercises methodological and organizational guidance of those centres; c) together with All-Union centres prepares necessary methodological materials and documents on interlending system's performance; d) fulfils the orders, which regional and All-Union centres failed to fulfil.

The introduction of the Statute, resulting in an enhanced efficiency and better utilization of the collections in all libraries of the country, with due regard to their specialization, removed a lot of orders that used to come to the Lenin Library for materials available in other libraries, relieving thus the Library's general workload. Instead it assumed a new major responsibility for the functioning of the whole interlending system of the country.

3.6. In the 1960s a national network of scientific and technological information was formed in the Soviet Union consisting of branch subdivisions, each headed by its special centre. The role of the Lenin Library in the system was determined by two factors: firstly, by the need of a universal bibliographic information conditioned by the integrated nature of contemporary human knowledge and, secondly, by the need of a branch subdivision for culture and art within the national system of scientific and technological information.

As one of the two national centres of universal bibliographic information (the other centre is the All-Union Book Chamber responsible for current national bibliography), taking into account the sphere of activities of the other centre, the Lenin Library concentrated on preparing fundamental retrospect bibliographic indices of universal nature such as union catalogues or indices dealing with comprehensive multi-branch or inter-branch problems relevant for the development of sciences, economy and culture in the USSR. Besides, that provides current bibliographic information on those problems through the system of selective dissemination of information (SDI) for governmental and scientific bodies concerned.

The Lenin Library's specialization in the sphere of information on culture and art was determined by the following factors: first, as the National Library, it is to promote, accordingly, higher cultural standards of the Soviet people, and their greater involvement in learning about Soviet and world culture accomplishments; secondly, by the comprehensive nature of the concept of culture itself, which the Lenin Library's universal collections and reference facilities correspond to; thirdly, by the fact that the Lenin Library is administratively under the USSR Ministry of Culture, which needs special information provisions.

As a specialized branch-information centre, the Lenin Library exceeded the frame-work of bibliographic information only. It also performs its new function in such forms as advance, abstract, review, and factual information, as well as reference information services through selective dissemination of information and selective information of administration. Besides, in keeping with the overall line of its development as the central element in the country's lib-

rary network, the Lenin Library coordinates the activities of other libraries in this area and methodologically guides them.

3.7. The 1959 Resolution of the CPSU Central Committee on Librarianship in the USSR and its improvement extended the Lenin Library's function as the methodological centre for the RSFSR's libraries to the nation-wide level. The Lenin Library thus became the methodological centre for all Soviet libraries, except scientific and technical ones. Since the Soviet library network consists of a great number of branch subdivisions each library within them performs its specific functions, requiring differentiated methodological guidance, each subdivision having its own library, either else methodological centre. The Lenin Library as the All-Union centre exercises direct method guidance over the libraries under the USSR Ministry of Culture, while other libraries are guided by it through branch methodological centres.

The Lenin Library's methodological function as an aspect of librarianship guidance is two-fold, namely scientific and organizational. The scientific aspect pertains to the analysis and generalization of librarianship practice and elaboration of appropriate recommendations on this basis. The organizational aspect lies in the guidance of the introduction of these recommendations in libraries' routine, which ensures coordinated development and higher efficiency of their work. Major forms this function assumes are: general practical guides designed for long-term use, prompt methodological instructions, conferences and seminars to compare notes, and consultations. The problems requiring the Library's methodological guidance are linked up with the current trends towards the improvement of library services, namely, with branch and inter-

branch centralization of libraries, with the establishment of regional and branch depository libraries collecting and storing scarcely used literature, with the role of central-branch, Republican and regional libraries increasing, and with the development of interdepartmental coordination. Two goals are pursued here: to improve library services rendered to the readership and to ensure higher organizational standards.

3.8. The development of coordination and cooperation in the work of Soviet libraries resulting in the emergence of a unified library services' system, necessitated not only greater method guidance on the part of the V.I.Lenin State Library, but also more profound theoretical substantiation of librarianship. Scientific and research work has always featured prominently in the activities of the Lenin Library. In the 50s and early 60s the Lenin Library emerged as the centre for the elaboration of the unified rules of cataloguing of printed matter and a science-based scheme of library classification used today by all (with the exception of scientific and technical) libraries in the USSR. For many years now research has been going on in the sphere of history of printing and collections' preservation. In the late 60s considerable qualitative changes took place in the scientific and research work carried out in the Lenin Library, which was a result of the generally greater role sciences came to play in the whole economic and cultural life of the USSR. The Lenin Library acquired a new function, that of the country's scientific and research centre in library and bibliography sciences.

The Library performs this function proceeding along two lines: a) by tackling on its own and in cooperation with other libraries

the problems decisively important for further improvement of library services in the country and in the Lenin Library itself , as the National library, and b) by carrying out scientific and organization work contributing to further progress of Soviet library science.

The research concentrates on the present-day problems of development of library science and on better library services, on the history of librarianship, on the problems of reading and readership's interests, on the role libraries play in information service, on typology functions of the National library and long-term prognoses of the development of library network in the USSR. Among its scientific-organizational activities mention can be made of the coordination of the research in library and bibliography sciences going on in the country by way of cumulative interbranch five-year planning, organization of joint research on the national and regional levels on the basis of single programmes and methods, when most important problems are tackled, as well as organization of scientific conferences and seminars. In recent years comprehensive purpose-oriented library programmes have been worked out encompassing the whole research cycle, either else new method-(technology)-introduction into practical use.

3.9. The typical feature of the period under review has been the intensified development of the cooperation among libraries internationally. Due to this and in keeping with its general orientation, the Lenin Library in the last decades acquired yet one more function, that is the one of being the centre of international ties for Soviet libraries. The long-standing responsibilities in the sphere of international book-exchange were supplemented by the centralizat

ion of international inter-lending system, representation in the IFLA, organization of bilateral and multilateral conferences, etc. The cooperation has been especially successful with the National libraries of Socialist countries. It covers systematic exchanges of experiences, joint research, etc.

4. The Third Stage of Development.

4.I. In I984 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR approved "The Status on Librarianship in the USSR" which has the force of a law. The Status signified a new stage of development not only for the V.I.Lenin State Library, but for the whole library network in the Soviet Union. Before the Status adoption all the libraries worked within the framework of departmental-branch and inter-branch systems. This pattern and the experiences of inter-library cooperation accumulated, provided the necessary basis for uniting the libraries on the national level. Today all the Soviet libraries, regardless of their departmental affiliation, make up a single unified system based on the unity of their main objectives and the principles of work. The collections of all libraries make up the unified library collection which is the property of the Soviet people and is protected, by the State.

The existing departmental-branch and inter-branch system acquired the status of sub-systems of the unified system.

4.2. In this new national system the V.I.Lenin State Library occupies the place of the central library equally related to all the sub-systems. The responsibilities of the Lenin Library in its new capacity are determined by the fact that the main precondition for a successful functioning of the unified system is a good coordination of the functioning of all its component parts, as well as of the acquisition for, and utilization of the collection. Such coord-

ination is possible only if there is a strict uniformity of both organizational and scientific-methodological principles applied in the system's all component parts. That is why the main responsibility of the Lenin Library as part of the unified system is to elaborate the necessary organizational-methodological and scientific foundations for the establishment and functioning of the unified system and to coordinate the activities of all its department al-branch methodological centres.

Thus, at this new stage the Lenin Library in its work will be motivated not by the interests of individual departments or branches, but by the interests of Soviet society as a whole, which reflects the essence of the contemporary National library in the most complete and consistent way.

4.3. The content (subject-matter) of the research and methodological work the Lenin Library undertakes mainly aims at ensuring the fulfilment by the libraries of the country of the tasks mapped out by the "Status on Librarianship in the USSR" (the Library Law), approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on March 13, 1984.

The following issues may be mentioned as the priorities in the sphere of theoretical, experimental, and methodological work: it is essential that the functions of Soviet libraries as cultural educational and scientific-informational ideological institutions are specified; the forms and methods of their activities be advanced to be up to the dynamic socio-economic transformations in the epoch of the scientific and technological revolution; the principles and ways of functioning of the libraries' unified system through a comprehensive development of interlibrary and library-information cooperation be improved; the basic principles for building

up and utilization of the unified library collection of the USSR should be elaborated; ways and means should be identified in order to improve the control over librarianship and to make it more democratic, to ensure greater public involvement in it; the efficiency of forms and methods employed in book promotion on the basis of a comprehensive approach taking into account the results of sociological surveys on reading and the place the library occupies among other mass media should be enhanced; the role played by work collectives in reading promotion and in libraries utilization should be raised, etc.

The general objective of all the research and methodological work of the Lenin Library is to raise the efficiency and quality of library services through their intensification.

4.4. The third period in the development of the V.I.Lenin State Library is characterized by the introduction (as in other libraries) of new technical facilities. For instance, a new service appeared, either else the readers may have the originals copied for them. Microfilms and microfiches came to be extensively used.

An automated library system was developed and is being introduced by stages. All the processes involving the materials received by the Library are automated in the on-line mode, either else acquisition, registration, bibliographic processing, bibliography and stocking and release of printed matter through photocomposition. Among the latter are, for instance, union printed catalogues of cartography and sheet music editions and catalogue cards. The use of cooperating partners' bibliography data bases is also envisaged. (All-Union Book Chamber on published and All-Union Scientific and Technical Information Centre on unpublished editions)

The services rendered to readers and the processes of library management are also being automated.

The Library operates an automated information system on culture and arts as well as the international information system "Words and Word-Combinations' Abbreviations in Bibliography Description" (ISO - 832).

The V.I.Lenin State Library is to work more actively in the future to accelerate the integration of the country's libraries into a unified automated system on the basis of branch and territorial libraries' automated systems, as well as through the integration of libraries' automated systems with the State scientific and technical information automated system and the automated systems of book publishing organizations.

4.5. It is planned to construct new facilities for the V.I.Lenin State Library and to further develop its material and technical base which will raise its role in the economic, scientific and technological, and intellectual development of Soviet society.

New premises are to be built in the immediate vicinity of the Library and their total area is to amount to 60 thousand square metres.

In the course of its reconstruction the Library is to be equipped with most up-to-date facilities, such as computers, technical means for ordering and delivering of the materials ordered, controllable microprocessors, as well as with facilities which will enable the Library to fully meet the demand of the readers in copies and microfiches.

Summing the V.I.Lenin State Library's 60 years' work as the National library there is good reason to observe that its develop-

ment is proceeding from the Library's emergence as the biggest library in the country towards its gradual transformation into the central library of the unified library system which is being formed in the USSR. At that, both these aspects are organically interrelated: the functions that determined the performance of the Lenin Library at the first stage of its development, had ensured the potential that advanced the Library to the central position in the national system which, in its turn, brought about new functions, those of organizational and scientific and methodological nature. At the same time the functions themselves, influenced by new developments, are subject to evolution.

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Государственная библиотека СССР имени В. И. Ленина
Отдел микрофотокопирования

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, CHICAGO

Division:

Section: NATIONAL LIBRARIES

1985

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G U Y  S Y L V E S T R E

President and Executive Director
Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions

# P R E S E R V I N G  F O R  A C C E S S

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There is no need to document before this audience the magnitude and complexity of the conservation problem that faces libraries, especially national and other large research libraries which have a heritage mission. This challenge now exercises the mind of library directors as never before and it is gratifying to see that several local, national and international projects are now contributing to an unprecedented degree to the preservation of the written word for future generations. The international dimension of the problem and the desirability of international cooperative schemes are now officially recognized by IFLA which has included preservation and conservation as one of the core programmes of its Medium Term Plan (1986 - 1991). The programme is both retrospective and prospective and underlines the fact that the solutions to the problem are not merely technical, but managerial and financial. Librarians are increasingly aware of the fact that, unless major and costly steps are taken soon to preserve either the publications themselves or at least their content - and this goes also for non-book materials - a substantial part of mankind's intellectual heritage could be lost for future generations. It is our collective responsibility to make sure that this does not happen.

We now know that there will not be enough conservators, equipment, time and money to preserve in their original form the billions of copies of books and other library materials held by the hundreds of thousands of libraries around the world, nor would it be desirable to attempt to do so even if the necessary human, technical and financial resources were available. The fact is that millions of copies of books now held by libraries would never be used if preserved; some need not be preserved accordingly in more than a relatively few copies or in microcopies. True, newly developed mass deacidification techniques will hence forth make it possible to extend the life of a much larger proportion of library holdings than was thought possible only a few years ago, including copies of new

and future books as they are acquired. It is most likely, however, that such mass deacidification installations as will exist will remain too few in the foreseeable future to conserve more than part of the disintegrating library collections.

There is no denying accordingly that, willy-nilly, an increasingly higher percentage of research library collections will be made up of microforms in the years ahead. Readers and librarians alike are, I know, unhappy to see so many books replaced by microcopies in their collections, but they must accept this development as a lesser evil : for hundreds of thousands of books and millions of other documents, the only real alternative would be to have neither the hard copy nor the microform. The invasion of microforms is accordingly inevitable and it must be accepted as a fact of life : as an effective means of increasing local availability of text or information, the lesser evil is in fact a real blessing. And those who grumble over microforms should be reminded of the alternative.

In Canada, considerable efforts have been made by the Canadian Library Association and commercial firms to preserve on microfilm most Canadian newspapers. Some periodicals and government serials are also available in microforms. Little had been done, however, until recently to so preserve books, pamphlets and such ephemera as leaflets, playbills and broadsides or catalogues; and most serials, including almanachs, calendars, annual reports and directories had not been microreproduced either. Canadian librarians, like their colleagues from other countries, grew increasingly aware that large parts of their collections were gradually disintegrating through use and misure, as well as through the effect of acids in paper and of deleterious environment factors. In 1972, the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada appointed a commission to examine the situation of Canadian studies within academic curricula, including the location and extent of library holdings. The Report of the Commission issued in

1975 drew attention to the weaknesses of library collections of early Canadiana, their dispersal and their deterioration and the need to preserve them and to patriate through copies those available only in foreign repositories.[1]

Shortly afterwards, in response to many expressions of concern regarding the weaknesses and deterioration of research collections, the Canada Council, which was at the time responsible for supporting research in the humanities and the social sciences, appointed a consultative group on university libraries which, in its report published in 1977, recommended among other things that the Council "endow an appropriate organization with the sum of $2 million, both principal and interest to be used exclusively for the creation of a microform collection of Canadiana. The collection should be as complete as possible up to the year 1900, and should retrieve all printed Canadiana known to be abroad or considered rare or scarce in the country"[2]

This recommendation was based on two interdependent goals: (1) to assure the conservation of the country's printed heritage, and (2) to increase access to that heritage even in institutions or areas where no large collections of original materials exist. The recommendation was promptly accepted and the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions was established in 1978 and endowed with the proposed $2 million to implement the programme aimed at achieving these two complementary objectives: conservation and access.

The task at hand was monumental and eventually proved to be much larger than anticipated. When the Institute was established seven years ago, the general belief was that, exclusive of serials and official publications, there had been published in Canada, or about Canada, before 1901 between 50,000 and 55,000 books, pamphlets and ephemera, and that it would take some five years to locate, film and distribute them in microcopies. Seven years later,

we have located more than 80,000 monographs of all kinds and have distributed in Canada 31,798 on 73,206 microfiche. This year, we will distribute 7036 more, which will bring the total to 38,834. We expect to have the filming of pre-1901 Canadian monographs completed by 1988 and, as will be explained later we will start filming serials at the beginning of next year and hopefully will have completed by 1990 the filming of non-governmental publications - both monographs and serials- and fulfilled the mandate assigned to the Institute by the Canada Council in 1978.

That it should have taken eleven or twelve years to complete this original mandate is due to a number of factors, the two most significant being (1) that the early Canadian publications are dispersed over a great many libraries and archives all across Canada, a great many in rare or even unique copies, including thousands of items not listed either in institutional catalogues nor in general or special bibliographies; (2) that the Institute, in response to pressures from full set subscribers, provides full bibliographic access to the collection, full MARC records being available both on tape or in a COM catalogue cumulated annually. I shall revert to cataloguing later in this paper.

When the Institute was established in 1978, it was forced by the rudimentary state of retrospective bibliography in Canada to create its own bibliographic file of pre-1901 titles in order to ensure that all titles to be filmed could be identified and located. The file was started by searching through the National Library's retrospective national bibliography, Canadiana 1867-1900[3], which provided a great deal of useful information on a great many of the 35,000 titles recorded for the period 1867-1900, but required a great deal of verification and up-dating owing to the fact that the RETRO file was created from previously-created records and not with the book in hand. As was indicated a moment ago, the Institute researchers have found thousands of additional titles, for the period preceding 1867, of course, but also for the period 1867-1900 -

some 16,000 so far not yet listed in the National Library's 41,000 titles Retro COM catalogue, by visiting hundreds of libraries, photocopying title pages and recording on a worksheet the pagination and size of the publication, a list of illustrative material, a condition report of the copy in hand, and the call number. This information is eventually useful to the cataloguers when they catalogue the microfiche, but it is primarily assembled in order to decide what copy to borrow from where for filming; in other words, this master file is a pre-requisite to the cost/effective planning and management of such a large micropublishing project as the Institute's.

The project is indeed meant to be as comprehensive as possible and, after much consultation and discussion, it was resolved in 1979 that the collection should include the following categories of items:

books
pamphlets
leaflets
playbills and broadsides
commercial catalogues
advertisements for products or services
musical scores
programmes (theatre, concerts, events, etc)

These categories were to cover not only all items printed in Canada, but also all relevant items written by Canadians and published abroad, and all relevant items by foreign authors and published abroad which have a Canadian subject or content. The goal of the project is nothing less than the preservation and diffusion of the nation's printed heritage. I should mention, however, that the project does not cover, at least for the time being, government publications, newspapers, maps and topographical views, photographs nor currency.

As explained earlier, the Institute's master bibliographic file is used to select material to borrow on inter-library loan for filming, most of which is done in Ottawa in the National Library

building on Wellington Street. Although the Institute's main office is located in a commercial building a few blocks away, the bibliographers, those who prepare items for filming, the camera operators and the cataloguers are all housed in the National Library of Canada in working areas provided to the Institute free of charge. The then National Librarian made the necessary space available to the Institute, not only on the theoretical ground that it was performing an essential national task, but on the practical ground that the success of the project depended on the cooperation of a great many libraries which would have been reluctant or unwilling to lend their rare or unique items to be processed in a commercial building, but are willing to send them on inter-library loan to such a secure place as the National Library. It is not irrelevant here to point out that if 94 p.c. of the filming was done at the National Library in Ottawa, 5 p.c. near Toronto at Bell & Howelll's main plant, and 1 p.c. at the Library of Congress (for items not found in Canada and located there), only 19,963 of the 36,259 items filmed so far, on 55 p.c. came from the National Library's collection or from the Public Archives located in the same building, which means that 16,296 had to be borrowed from 67 other libraries from Halifax to Victoria. A great many are delivered to the National Library building by one of the two province - wide inter-library transportation systems operated by university libraries in Ontario and Quebec, or by bonded commercial courier services, but a great many rare, unique, valuable items are transported by Institute staff who have made dozens of trips to libraries from Halifax to London (Ontario) and even to Vancouver. One can appreciate how costly and time-consuming it is to run such a program in such a large country where the library resources are highly decentralized and when so many rare items are difficult to locate. It is, however, manageable and it works thanks to the voluntary support and cooperation of a great many librarians all across Canada to whom the Institute is greatly indebted and for whom it provides in return a national service which is "patently important".[4]

Once the item has been received for filming, it is examined, collated and a report is prepared on its physical condition. As a result of such thorough examination, more than 10 p.c. of the items had to be returned to the lending library when they are not filmable, being either incomplete or too fragile; another copy is then sought and there are cases where a perfect copy cannot be produced except from a number of incomplete copies. When this is done, it is noted on the microfiche and in the catalogue which, incidentally, always identifies the library from which came the filmed copy.

Before filming any item, an eye legible header is prepared, which is formatted in accordance with the ISO standard for microfiches of monographs and serials (ISO/DIS15123) and which gives, in addition to the CIHM number and the ISBN, the author, title, date and place of publication, as well as the number of the microfiche within a set and the total number of microfiches in the set:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CIHM no. 00001 ICMH no | Boucher, Pierre. Histoire véritable et naturelle des moeurs & productions du pays de la Nouvelle France...dite le Canada. - Paris, 1664. | 1 of/de 3 ISBN 0-665-00001-4 |

The item is then camera ready and is sent to the Bell and Howell filming unit - in Ottawa or in Toronto - where it is handled with extreme care by trained personnel using a modified Bell & Howell Diplomat Microfiche Camera. The filming is then submitted to rigorous editorial and technical checks and, in addition to the master film, four second generation intermediate films are produced, two for the production of copies for distribution in Canada, a third for University Microfilms International which distributes the C.I.H.M. collection abroad, and the fourth is deposited, together with the master film, in the storage vaults of the National Library of Canada.

The items filmed are then available for distribution to full set subscribers in Canada - at the moment 30 of them - and

for sale on a selective basis to other libraries or archives, and to libraries abroad by CIHM's international agent, University Microfilms International which produces from time to time lists by disciplines or subject areas for libraries which are interested in buying only in specific fields of interest. These lists are also used by CIHM to promote selective sales within Canada.

The items are also available for full cataloguing, as requested by the full set subscribers. The Institute follows the AACR II, except for the place of publication which is that of the original publication (and not that of the microform publisher), in response to researchers' expectations, as well as the LC's Bibliographic Description of Rare Books. The Institute also assigns subject headings taken from LC's Subject Headings, NLC's Canadian Subject Headings and Laval's Répertoire de vedettes-matière, and each item receives a Dewey decimal classification number, an ISBN and the CIHM series number. These bibliographic descriptions are then converted to the CAN/MARC format - and the cataloguing records are available on magnetic tape and in a COM catalogue entitled Canada - The Printed Record, which is cumulated annually, and which includes several indexes:

Authors/Titles/Series
English Subject Headings
French Subject Headings
Dewey Decimal Classification
Place of Publication
Date of Publication
CIHM Series Number

These records on tapes are also mounted on the UTLAS system in Toronto, and through UMI on the OCLC system in Columbus. This Summer, the Institute has started to catalogue on-line on the National Library's DOBIS system and new titles, as well as the complete converted retrospective file, are being also mounted on DOBIS and will henceforth be searchable on-line from a third major data base. Incidentally, the COM catalogue is sold separately and copies have been acquired by many libraries which do not buy the CIHM collection but find it a useful bibliographic tool.

This paper gives, I hope, a good overview of the CIHM project, which is a national preservation project aiming not only at preserving Canada's printed heritage for the benefit of future generations, but at making it readily available to present researchers in all parts of Canada, and in a few foreign countries. It is our opinion that our approach has a lot of merit - it was dictated by the high degree of decentralization of our library resources and by the desire to improve the availability of these resources for an equally highly decentralized clientèle. The CIHM project also confirms that conservation and access are not antinomic; on the contrary, by assembling a single, comprehensive collection made up of scattered, fragmented collections and making it widely available, the Institute gradually makes accessible to an unprecedented degree Canada's early printed heritage and achieves its objective : preserving for access.

1 To Know Ourselves, The Report of the Commission on Canadian Studies, Ottawa, AUCC, 1975, vols. I and II

2. University Research Libraries, Report of the Consultative Group on University Research Libraries, Ottawa, the Canada Council, 1977, p. VII

3. Ottawa, National Library of Canada, 1980

4. Report of the Federal Cultural Review Committee, Ottawa, Department of Communications, 1982, p. 135

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# The Role of the Library of Congress in Transition

by

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Abstract

# The Role of the Library of Congress in Transition

by
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The Library of Congress and the library world must look backward to preserve the past and forward to face the new technologies. Libraries are moving into an automated, machine-readable world. By initiating research and experimentation, the Library of Congress is in the forefront of addressing the concerns of bibliographic control, physical control, and preservation. The article discusses the technology and programs, particularly the Optical Disk Pilot Program, devised by the Library of Congress to meet the information challenges of the future.

The dictionary definition of "transition" is a passing from one condition, action or place, to another," Having been asked to speak to you on "the role of the Library of Congress in transition." I naturally began by asking myself what might be the "condition" from which we are passing, and what the "condition" to which we are moving? It is, in fact, a curious position the library world finds itself in today. We are looking backwards to preserve the record of our past, and to the future, with its myriad new technologies. The decisions we are making today will effectively preserve or obliterate the memory of our past, since future generations will have no communal memory of the past save what we are able to preserve in our written records. Likewise, decisions we are making today will shape the future. It is our responsibility to hand on to generations to come our philosophy of free access to information for all. And it will be our misfortune and theirs if we are forced to pass on to those generations higher and higher costs of information access.

We are in transition from a world without computers -- a world that existed, believe it or not, only a short 30-40 years ago -- to a fully automated, machine-readable world, an information economy, as we call it. In the library community, as in the rest of the world, automation has become our valued servant, bringing us within reach of some of our major goals. The new information technologies are permitting us to solve basic problems which must be solved if the ideal of "the universal availability of information" is to become a reality. However, it often seems that automation is our master as much as it is our servant. It certainly places high demands on our ingenuity and imagination. It seems to be forcing us in new directions, to be a catalyst, creating new and challenging problems for us even as it provides solutions to some old problems.

In this time of transition, the Library of Congress continues to take an active role in initiating research and experimentation in the application of the new technologies in solving the problems of libraries. And all the problems which libraries confront have to do with their major goal of ensuring "the universal availability of information."

What is necessarily required to make information universally available, or to meet our ideal goal of making "everything available to everyone everywhere"? To meet this ultimate goal we must achieve universal bibliographic control through standardized, cooperative cataloging, and we must achieve physical control of the materials themselves, by developing our collections in cooperation with other libraries and storing them in minimal space using state-of-the-art methods of preservation and miniaturization. We must provide for inexpensive and timely delivery of the materials we have collected and stored. We must continue to foster creativity by fairly compensating the authors of the intellectual products collected in our libraries. And we must continue to encourage reading and literacy among our citizens so that everyone may avail themselves of our rich stores of information. The Library of Congress continues to exercise its leadership role in developing innovative approaches in all of these areas, including bibliographic control, physical control, document storage and delivery, compensation to authors, and the encouragement of a reading, literate citizenry.

Back in the mid-1960s, the Library of Congress began its pioneering efforts in using automation to solve library problems. It was then that LC began developing, in consultation with the American library community, a standard format for conversion of printed cataloging data to machine-readable form. The MARC format, as it came to be known the world over, reduced cataloging costs for individual libraries by allowing standardized, bibliographic data to be centrally produced and distributed for use in machine-readable from by all libraries. Beginning in 1968, LC began distributing, in this form, all current cataloging for English language works. In 1973, we added French titles, in 1975, German, Portuguese, and Spanish language works; in 1976 and 1977, other European languages. Now all LC cataloging results in machine-readable records.

Cataloging costs were further reduced when OCLC and the Research Library Information Network (RLIN) began using the LC-produced data as well as data produced by other libraries to build a hugh national database available to all their members. The standard MARC format permitted libraries to share cataloging data through computer networks, and with the advent of economical cooperative cataloging, the dream of "universal bibliographic control" finally became attainable. MARC records are the basis of our "nationwide union catalogs" and are being put to use in every phase of library work, not only in the automated acquisitions, cataloging, and circulation systems used by librarians, but now in online catalogs available in public reading rooms for patron use. Indeed, the Library of Congress itself, in December 1980, stopped filing into its catalogs cards for newly processed works and since that time has relied exclusively on our public online catalog for information about recent publications. A survey of our patrons in 1982 indicated high satisfaction with the new system.

The standard MARC format has also permitted creation of effective communication links between library computer networks. The "Linked System Project"(LSP), begun in the early 1980's now includes the Library of Congress, the Research Libraries Group, the Washington Library Network, and the largest U.S. library utility, OCLC. The first use of the LSP will be to exchange, through record transfer and search and response, cataloging authority data among the various participants in LC's Name Authority Cooperative (NACO). The NACO, a project to build cooperative national authority and bibliographic files with high quality data, is itself a project made possible by the existence of a MARC format.

Having achieved the capability of bibliographic control through the use of automation, LC is now addressing its resources to the problems of physical control of items which are being cataloged. In the mid-1960s when the MARC format was being developed, United States libraries were in a period of boom. Libraries had large and growing budgets, with money to build large new buildings to house their expanding collections. They had money to expand the scope of their book collections as well as to develop new collections of non-book materials. But during the 1970s, libraries began to feel economic constraints. From that period to the present, libraries have been forced to consider more earnestly how to conserve their resources through cooperative collection development plans, centralized storage of infrequently used research materials, and greater reliance on interlibrary loan. The high cost of building is forcing us all to carefully define our collection policies and to consider how we can take advantage of miniaturization to limit or reduce the shelf space we require.

The Library of Congress, having in late 1982 completed its move to full occupancy of its third building, the James Madison Memorial Building, is eager to avoid building a fourth library building. The Library now holds over 80 million items and receives 10 new items every minute of every working day. A recent study by the Library indicates that, if we continue our present rate of acquisitions and if we do not avail ourselves of the new technologies of compact storage, a fourth library building will be required by the end of the century. To avoid this eventuality, the Library of Congress has been revising all its collection development policies and working with other research libraries to establish areas of collecting responsibility.

Towards this end, the Library has become increasingly active in working with other libraries of North America. Standing Committees of the Association of Research Libraries and the Research Libraries Group (RLG) are working along parallel lines towards coordination of collecting policies. The Library of Congress is a full participant in providing information on its collections for the RLG national inventory and for the correlative data bank which lists the comparative strengths in all fields of participating libraries. LC has accepted preeminent responsibility in the nation for collecting in certain specialized fields in science and technology, languages and literature, and the performing arts. In addition, of course, we continue, as U.S. library of last resort, to collect in depth in almost all major fields of human knowledge and culture.

The Library finds itself again taking a major role in experimenting with new automation technologies which are likely to bring about great changes in the libraries of the future. The Library is currently drawing up new guidelines for the collection of materials in machine-readable formats, which may

involve collecting the machine-readable items themselves, as well as access to copyrighted databases. More and more incoming materials may be in machine-readable formats. At the same time, the Library is pioneering in the use of the digital optical disk and the videodisk for compact storage of its collections. The optical disk is of great interest to the Library because of its potential in helping solve its space, service, and preservation problems by a single method.

And speaking of preservation, I hold the view that preservation is the most urgent problem facing libraries today. If we continue our present policy of Planned Deterioration, the 532 miles of shelves in LC's three Capitol Hill buildings will some day hold heaps of crumbling paper, of no use to any researcher. In our current inventory, we are finding that 2% to 3% of the Library's general book collections are unserviceable because of brittle paper. A separate survey of the same collection indicates that 25% of the volumes have deteriorated sufficiently that immediate microfilming would be recommended, were it feasible. Because of the seriousness of this situation, the Library has for the past several years given top priority to research and experimentation in the area of book preservation.

Thus it was that, in 1982, the Library of Congress began a three-year pilot project in image preservation and retrieval using state-of-the-art optical disk technology. The Pilot Program is evaluating the use of optical disk technology for information preservation and compact storage and determining the costs and benefits of the technology in a library setting.

Optical disk technology possesses strong advantages for both preservation and service. Converting our materials to digitized form on optical disk means that even if the disk lasts only fifty years, we shall still be capable of retaining the data indefinitely in a form as good as the original. The data is coded in such a way as to provide self checks throughout so that over the years, the system can monitor the change of data quality on the disk. The system can then correct for those errors and provide a new disk copy as error-free as the original.

Furthermore, the disks require minimal storage space. A jukebox holding 100 optical disks, which can store roughly one million pages, takes up only about 15 square feet. The disks may be stored in secure housing and never be touched by human hands, even when in constant use. They may be easily duplicated and distributed, or the data they contain may be transmitted by wire or by satellite to remote locations.

Two types of disk storage are being tested in the Optical Disk Pilot Program. Print materials -- periodicals, newspapers, scholarly journals, and so forth -- are being stored on digital optical disks. Non-print or image-based materials, including glass lantern slides, paper-print motion pictures, architectural drawings, etc., will be stored on analog videodisks. For the most part, print materials selected for the optical digital disk experiment consist of high-use current periodicals and government documents. The Library has secured copyright clearances for the use of the more than seventy periodical titles which will be made available on optical disk during phases one and two of the print materials experiment. All pages of the 1983, 1984, and 1985 issues

of the journals and government documents selected will be put on disk, followed by a selection of maps, music, manuscripts and legal publications to be made available on disk in the third phase of the project.

The non-print or analog videodisk part of the project will preserve and access image materials. Up to 54,000 separate black-and-white or color images may be stored on one side of a 12-inch videodisk and selectively viewed a frame at a time.

The Library has now completed design and planning of the project and begun implementation. Throughout 1984, the Library was busy installing and testing the optical disk and analog videodisk systems. For the digital optical disk project, LC received and installed a high resolution scanner, which digitally records at high resolution a full page in .7 seconds, as well as a microfiche scanner for conversion of film micro-images to digitized images. At year's end, several thousand pages of periodical articles and government documents had been scanned and put on disk.

The Library also installed eight high-resolution terminals, two to be used for inputting documents and six in public reader stations. From these terminals, a patron will be able to recall digitized documents in a few minutes at most. A Xerox 2700 and Xerox 5700 make it possible to copy images stored on the disk.

Analog videodisk equipment was also received and installed, including two Sony videodisk players and monitors, a Sony microcomputer, and five of the six videodisks of pictorial materials which our contractor, Sony, is to create for the Library. On June 15, 1984, the Library opened in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, its first public videodisk reader station. There the

public has access to a disk containing excellent electronic reproductions of color slides, political posters, photo albums, lantern slides, and architectural renderings. These materials are accessible through a menu system created by LC staff. Staff is currently working on a level of access which will provide full bibliographic descriptions of all disk images.

Now on display in the Jefferson building as part of an exhibit on the Book in the Future, is a videodisk reader station displaying approximately 100,000 motion picture publicity stills from the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. This same disk and and equipment is available to the public in our Motion Picture Reading Room. We are to this point encouraged in our hope that these new technologies will eventually go far toward solving our service, storage and preservation problems.

This is, however, not the only method of preservation the Library of Congress is developing. The Library's Preservation Office began, in the late 1970s, to experiment with the use of gas vapor to neutralize the harmful acids and alums which are causing our books to deteriorate on the shelves. In 1982 and 1983, the Preservation Office successfully completed testing the feasibility of the gasious diethyl zinc mass deacidification process which it has been experimenting with for the past several years. And in 1984, Congress authorized and funded a plan for the design, construction, and operation of a mass book deacidification facility at Ft. Detrick, Maryland. Construction of the 40,000 square foot plant will begin in 1985, with an estimated completion in 1987. When completed, the facility will be able to treat at least 500,000 items each year. Both incoming materials and books from the retrospective collection will receive the treatment which will neutralize the acids in the paper, extending the volume's useful life for hundreds of years.

In its efforts to preserve its collections, the Library has not neglected its primary purpose, indeed the ultimate purpose of each act of preservation, namely delivering the collection to researchers who need it. From the perspective of the Library community at large, perhaps the most interesting of these efforts is the transition in our Loan Division from a manual to a more electronic mode. By way of background, I should mention that LC's Loan Division serves as the library of last resort for U.S. libraries and as the library of first resort for overseas libraries seeking U.S. imprints. Last year, nearly 20% of the division's 43,000 loan and reference queries were from non-U.S libraries.

In the least complicated of the changes to an electronic mode, the Loan Division has put itself in all the main library electronic mail networks, including those which reach beyond U.S. borders, and overseas. This has permitted the Division to be much more responsive to urgent requests from libraries around the world. Before the end of the year, more than half of the loan requests received by LC will come in through electronic mail. Another new service is the routine provision, so far as practical and permissable within copyright law, to foreign, and indeed to all libraries, of photocopies of articles requested on interlibrary loan when the item does not circulate. The final link in the chain of improved service is the swift and free provision to selected interlibrary loan partners of telefacsimile copies of needed material.

Nor have we neglected the ultimate source of the materials which we labor to preserve and to supply to researchers. I refer of course to the creator--the writer, composer, cartographer, artist. The Register of Copyright and others in the Copyright Office helped bring into law the Copyright Act of 1977.

This large scale revision of earlier law among many other things extended greatly the life of copyright protection over earlier stipulations and made first forays into providing protection for the artifacts (or their ethereal equivalent) of the new age of electronics and computers. We have also worked closely with the publishing and motion picture industries throughout our Optical Disk Pilot Program. In the very beginning, we alerted them to our intentions and secured a written authorization to use those materials we hoped to put on disk. Additionally we named an Optical Disk Advisory Group consisting half of publishers and half of librarians. We are sharing our experience and findings with the Group and expect to receive from them recommendations on various policy matters. We hope that by working this way with the library and publishing communities that we shall be able to forge a program that to the maximum degree melds and protects the interests of all.

Finally, at the other end of the great chain of learning, we have made efforts to enlarge the literate population. In his report to the U.S. Congress, Daniel Boorstin focused on the problem of illiterates and "aliterates", that is, of those who can't read and those who don't read. In his recent report to the U.S. Congress, Books in our Future, Dr. Boorstin identified a range of programs for Congress and others to consider. He also described the Library's own new efforts aimed at reducing these problems: the Library will establish a clearinghouse for information about illiteracy and reading projects; issue, through online library networks, reading lists for the nation's libraries; and add descriptive annotations, provided by the publisher, for titles included in the Library's Cataloging-In-Publication program. With these and other initiatives, we hope that the U.S. will, in 1990, possess markedly fewer than the 23

million functional illiterates now said to be present and the 44% of American adults who "could read a book but don't".

Let me conclude with a few words on issues that will arise in the future: the time, of course, to which our transition is leading. I mentioned earlier the impossible dream shared by most librarians of making all knowledge instantly available, at no charge, to all people everywhere. New technology can obviously help us towards many of these goals--but it may actually impede our way toward others. A problem arises particularly with "free" service. The new technology affords much closer monitoring than was ever before possible of use of materials in libraries. At the same time, non-traditional publishers, the people of the "information industry", have established a tradition of payment for each use of their "publications". These two developments pose a clear threat to free library service. The issues are much too vast for me to explore thoroughly here, but I do advise you to keep alert to any degradation in the essentials of free library service, and to fight it. The best information and culture must be available to all our people. It is only by resolving these issues that our transition to the new library world can be successful.

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# National and University Libraries: Relations on the National and International Level.

by

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**Abstract:**

The paper discusses ways of organizing the relationships between a national library, or several national libraries within a country, and university libraries in that country. It discusses the role of a national library in a time of transition, using Norway as an example, and the patterns of cooperation between a national library and large university libraries as part of a national information network. Examines the impact of these libraries on the international level and concludes that IFLA should provide a forum for the discussion of these matters.

# 1

After the Second World War there have been held a number of international conferences and symposiums devoted to the discussion of National Libraries. As a common denonitator from all these efforts we seem to get the message that it is difficult to agree on a precise definition of the concept "National Library". Also it seems to be difficult to agree on which functions should be the responsibility of a National Library. At the Vienna Symposium on National Libraries in 1958 it was said that "the real problem, then, is not to determine the status and structure of an ideal National Library (which would never become a reality), but to state quite clearly the tasks which every country should undertake both in its own interest and in order to retain its due place in the international network of cultural relations." (1)

This underlines the importance of looking at any National Library within the framwork of the society where it is supposed to function. As the conditions in the different countries will vary, so will also the objectives, the tasks, and the content of the National Libraries in different countries vary. And consequently the functions they have been assigned, or not assigned, should be evaluated in the context of the contries' library system as a whole.

In the field of psychology it is usual to apply an operational definition on the rather elusive concept of intelligence, saying that intelligence is what we measure by the use of an intelligence test. In the same way we could say that the functions of a National Library are those being carried out by a National Library. This simply means that we will have to connect our understanding of the National Library in any given country and the functions it is given to perform with the political, economical, social, cultural, and a number of other aspects in the individual country.

Looking at the concept this way, and also bearing in mind how the institution "National Library" has been introduced into history at different times for different countries, it should not surprise us that they are in many ways very different. As it is to-day, most countries in the world do have National Library. It may not be called National Library. Some of them do, like in France, in Spain, in Austria, in Switzerland, in Australia, in Scotland and in Wales, to name but a few. In other countries they may have other names, like for instance Lenin Library in the Soviet Union and the Library of Congress in the USA. In yet other countries we can find that the name of the library reflects a development in history and the constitutional state of the country, like when the National Library is named the Royal Library. In still other countries we will find that the functions of the National Library maybe combined with a large University Library. Very often the only University Library in that country. This would not be uncommon in the earlier periods in a nation's life.

Enough to say that there is no clear-cut universial model for a National Library. They have been given different design and different tasks and functions depending on the history of the nation, economic and cultural factors, and the political system. So when international organizations like UNESCO and IFLA have in the later years been concerned with National Libraries, they have been looking at functions that should or could be undertaken by National Libraries, to list these functions and try to determine who could best be given the responsibilities for these vital elements in a country's total library system.

This of course points to the fact that there may be many different opinions as to which is the best way of organizing a library system in any given country. As has been pointed out earlier in this paper, this is also the case. There are

a number of different models to be seen, and the ways that the different countries have decided to organize their library systems varies considerably. What remains a common interest, however, is that all of them would like to develop the best possible national information system. This again will mean that they are looking for ways that will ensure the most effective use of the total library resources in the country, and this will not least mean finding a way of cooperation and having the different library units in the country to work together within a national plan.

This leads to my first observation. Even though the library situation in any country may differ considerably from the situation in other countries, there still may be a lot to learn from the experiences other countries have made in making different parts of their library system work together in a better way.

As I see it, the National Library and the University and other major Research Libraries will form the major part of a nation's library and information platform. We have seen that the relationship between national and university library collections and functions will be of major importance as a basis for a National Library network. Again, tradition and circumstanses in a given country will to a large extent determine the ways cooperation and resource sharing is being organized. In an article in IFLA Journal in 1983 (2) K. W. Humphreys said that "it should be a principle that the need for the national coordination of resources must overrule autonomy." As seen from the view of national planners, this may very well be desirable. But often this will be obstructed by a traditional autonomy in for instance the old established universities and their libraries. And of course it is not just a trivial matter to decide who should be given priority. Are we serving the nation at large, or are we serving our staff and students at the university. Of course we should be serving both, but in what order of priority.

Even though it might be diffucult to give a precise definition, there seems to be a feeling that a National Library should exist in every country, that it should play a central role in the contry's library and information life, supporting research and development in all major fields of society. In general terms most people seem to agree that there is a need for certain central powers to plan, to carry out functions and to coordinate library activities. But as Donald Urquhart has pointed out (3) in describing the development of the British Lending Library, he says: "Attempts in other countries to establish something on the lines of NLL have been opposed by librarians. Instinctively, they have feared that a creation of central lending library would cut on the resources available for their libraries." This is probably pointing to the heart of the matter. Even though most librarians, I think, would be in favour of a national plan for resource sharing and effective use of collections, there is still a tendency to look at the near surroundings of one's own library as more important that a national plan. Donald Urquhart is not particularly optimistic about this when he first makes the observation that "no library is an island", and then goes on saying "the opposition of librarians to central lending libraries is unlikely to be significantly reduced until the principles of librarianship are more generally taught and appreciated."

Using the situation in Norway as an example, I will try to underline some points that I think are important and that carries some potential for better use of a nation's library resources.
Norway is a young country. Our Constitution is from 1814. Before that we were for 400 years in a union with Denmark. In 1811 the first University was founded in Oslo, with a University Library. In 1815 this library also became the National Library. Since then the Royal University Library in Oslo has been carrying out this dual function of being both a National Library and a University Library.

In 1883 Norway got a new legislation for Legal Deposit. This was to be managed by the Royal University Library. From 1814 to 1905 Norway was in a union with Sweden, and only since 1905 Norway has been an independent Kingdom. So, as a relatively young nation without large resources, it seemed the obvious thing to do to combine the National Library and one and only University Library in the country. The University of Oslo remained the only university in Norway up and till the Second World Ward. After the war we have had a tremendous development in all fields of science and education, and Norway to-day in addition to the University in Oslo has new universities in Bergen, in Trondheim and in Tromsø. Also the general economic situation is much better due to the income from the oil found in the North Sea.
So to-day Norway is in the process of dividing the Royal University Library in two. One part being a new independent National Library, probably based in the old Main Library building. The other part will be a University Library for the University of Oslo, and this time placed in a new building at the University Campus. A number of circumstanses have led up to this decision to divide the library in two.

First we have had a proposal for a new act for Legal Deposit. This will include not only printed material, but it also incluids all sorts of new media. A document may be available as recorded sound, as film, video, or in electronic form. All of this is proposed to be the responsibility of the new National Library.

The advance of new technology, particularly the computer, has in a number of ways changed the environment in libraries. Most of the library's housekeeping routines have been and are being almost constantly changing. The possibilities opened up by the computer have not least paved the road for better ways for national planning and resource sharing.
A main task has been to find a reasonable balance between the traditional autonomy of the universities and the wish to

The new technology has also put a much stronger stress on standardization and meeting international requirements. All the major programmes launched by IFLA, like UBC, UAP, the MARC--programme, and a programme for preservation and conservation have been and are still important. Again there is a question of finding a reasonable balance between the needs of the individual library and the demands for standardization to meet national and international requirements. In Norway we have formulated this as part of the policy for a National Library Automation. To encourage standardization and resource sharing the National Library should "offer services of such a quality and standard that the libraries through out the country will be interested in using them based on cost and quality considerations."

For Norway, being a small country, efforts should be made to keep the national development in pace with the international standards and conventions that Norway has joined, when it comes to international information handling.

It is therefore my belief that the National Library and the major University and Research Libraries in any given country will have a major role to play in building a national platform for information services. The solution one arrives at for such a platform, will be unique for each and every country. On the other hand, we realize that we live more and more in what Marshall McLuhan described as the "Global Village." We apply standards, and we try to live by international regulations, and we try to help each other within the framework of IFLA, of UNESCO and other international bodies. Yes indeed, we are different. And different we will remain, but from these differences we can learn a lot about how we should and could organize in a better way the library services we provide in our own country, and how the relationship between a National Library and other libraries should be organized.

For many years the National Library Section has played an important part in the life of IFLA. So has the Section for University Libraries and General Research Libraries. For 10 years now we have had the Conference of Directors for National Libraries doing important work in the field of National Libaries, and maintaining a close cooperation with IFLA. The question is now how this should be organized in the best possible way for the future to gain better insight in the relations between these libraries on the international level and in a national setting.

As I see it, the CDNL should keep up its close relations with IFLA, and its involvement in IFLA's core-programmes By its very nature the CDNL will not ever be a very large group of people. It therefore seems important that the work initiated by the CDNL could be brought to the attention of a wider audience. The Section of National Libraries within IFLA could play a role in this and see to it that all the good work that the CDNL is doing and will be doing in the future be used as input to the programme of the section. There should be no problem in ensuring that a close cooperation be maintained between the CDNL and the National Library Section within IFLA.

Within the IFLA setting it has been customary that other sections have been approaching the National Library Section wanting to set up joint programmes. This should not surprise anyone, as the National Library Section would have a strong interest in most of the special subjects that other sections will be dealing with, like cataloguing, classification, new technology, rare books and many other items. In the same way as there is a need for a National Library on the national scene to relate to a number of libraries, and library functions, the Section of National Libraries within IFLA should play the same role in providing a forum where these relationships and experiences from different countries could be presented and discussed in a fruitful way. I certainly do believe that the National Libraries still have a very important part to play in the future role of IFLA.

The question of how this should be organized within IFLA to me is not all that important. Whether this be as a separate section for National Libraries as it is now within the Division of General Research Libraries, or whether it be included in the Section of University Libraries and other General Research Libraries. The main thing is that there will be a forum where topics like this can be presented, and where there can be a good working relationship between the appropriate IFLA bodies and the CDNL. In many ways I think that the CDNL could give a new momentum to the Section of National Libraries within IFLA. As Donald Urquhart said "no library is an island". More that ever to-day's library scene both on the national and international level is dominated by cooperation and resource sharing. This calls for a continuing and close dialogue between the National Libraries and the University and Research Libraries. Both for the development of librarianship and for the development for IFLA as an organization it will be of vital importance that IFLA in the future can provide a suitable forum for the exchange of ideas between representavies from these libraries. The formal setting for this process may differ over the years, but the process itself must go on.

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